

## No end in sight for TV blackout

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הכרזת מדינה

**Soviets break up demo for Begun**  
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## Envelope bore London High Commission stamp

## Cypriot officials will investigate source of 'Waldheim letter'

**By DAVID HOROVITZ**  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

LONDON. — The Cyprus High Commission here will investigate the possibility that the letter published by *The Jerusalem Post*, purportedly sent by Austria's Foreign Minister Alois Mock to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, was mailed from the commission's office.

The high commissioner, Tasos Panayides, confirmed to *The Post* through his spokesman that the identification coding on the commission's letter franking-machine matched that on the envelope received by *The Post* which contained the controversial letter. The spokesman conceded that "the coding number on our machine is the same as the one you have."

But the spokesman, press counselor Sotirios Georgallias, said it seemed "out of the question" that anyone in the commission would forge such a letter and send it out. He added that the franking-machine was locked and that only the commission's mail clerk had access to it.

The Pitney Bowes franking-machine sits openly on a desk in the front lobby of the commission's offices in Park Street, central London. No log is kept of the letters sent out, Georgallias said, because the sheer volume of mail despatched

daily would make that an absurdly time-consuming task.

The photocopied letter received by *The Post* was purportedly sent by Mock to Thatcher on December 15, 1986. The copy of this letter was written on the stationery of the Austrian People's Party of which Mock is the chairman, and dates back to a period before Mock became foreign minister. In the letter Mock seemed to approve of the idea of persuading Waldheim to step down, citing health reasons.

Although the Prime Minister's Office here has confirmed that it received a letter from Mock in mid-December, that letter made no reference to Waldheim.

Mock has denied writing the letter.

British government officials were appalled by the notion that Thatcher's signature might have been forged on the correspondence.

When told that the letter appeared to have been sent from the Cyprus High Commission, one official here said: "Good grief."

Another British source said that the episode was particularly unfortunate because the sentiments attributed to Mock in the letter are shared by many British foreign policymakers. It is a fairly widely held view that Austria would be better off without Waldheim as president, said the source.

## Storm goes on in Vienna

**By ILONA HENRY**  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent and Staff

VIENNA. — For the second day in a row, the "Waldheim letter" was the top item in Austrian newscasts yesterday.

Two previously scheduled press conferences also dealt extensively with the controversy over the letter, published in *The Jerusalem Post* on Tuesday.

Austrian People's Party general secretary Michael Graff said yesterday that he did not accept the remarks by *Post* editor Ari Rath on Austrian TV Tuesday night about the letter.

Rath had rejected a suggestion by Graff that publication of the letter could lead to "irresponsible agitators stirring up anti-Semitism in Austria."

"If there are any new anti-Semitic trends in Austria, then one should not seek the excuse for them in Israel

or with *The Jerusalem Post*," Rath said.

In the TV interview, Rath said: "If the letter does prove to be a forgery, then *The Jerusalem Post* will naturally apologize."

Mock's chief aide, Herbert Steinbauer, said yesterday that he sees *The Post's* publication of the letter as a continuation of the anti-Waldheim campaign, with the clear intention of drawing Mock into the affair.

"I cannot rule out that the forgers are from Austria. It is too easy to get hold of a publication of our party with this heading. In the age of photocopies it is very easy to forge something," Steinbauer said.

He said the letter bore the People Party's letterhead rather than Mock's personal one. Part of a line under the letterhead was missing, which Steinbauer said suggested the notepaper had been made by photocopying.

## Barak is deputy CGS

## Drori blasts moves on Shomron's appointment as danger to security

**By JOSHUA BRILLIANT**  
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Outgoing Deputy Chief of General Staff Aluf Amir Drori said yesterday that the campaign surrounding Aluf Dan Shomron's appointment as next Chief of General Staff was marked by unprecedented behaviour, "the consequences of which would prove more harmful to the country's security than the Syrians, the Iraqis and the terrorists put together."

He made the statement in reply to a question at the end of a press conference with defence reporters here, ignoring the IDF spokesman's request not to discuss the matter.

Drori said he planned to leave the army the minute a successor was found. Just an hour-and-a-half after his attack, reporters were told that Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had decided on Drori's successor. He is to be O/C Central Command, Aluf Ehud Barak, who had also aspired to the CGS post. Aluf Ori Orr, whose hopes to succeed Rav Aluf Moshe Levy were dashed, will also now leave the IDF.

The campaign surrounding Shomron's appointment revealed bitter



Aluf Amir Drori

personal relations among the army's top brass, mutual backbiting and recriminations and what Drori called "a deliberate campaign of disinformation" to the press.

The meeting at IDF headquarters here had been called to unveil the army's work plans for the year beginning April 1. Such meetings are a routine, annual affair.

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Two mothers display their son's portraits along with other families whose relatives were killed or wounded in political attacks, outside the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem yesterday, protesting any hostage swap for Palestinians held in Israel. The pictures are of Akiva Shaltiel, left, and Moshe Tamam who were murdered over the past two years.

(Brian Hendler)

## Berri sure Israel will trade the 400

**Post Diplomatic Correspondent and agencies**

Nabih Berri, leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite Amal militia, said yesterday that there are "positive indications" that Israel might trade 400 Arab prisoners for a captured Israeli airman and four hostages, three of them American. But political sources in Jerusalem denied that negotiations for such an exchange were taking place.

The White House also denied any knowledge yesterday of such a deal in the making.

The sources in Jerusalem said: "Lebanon is full of rumors and reports of this sort, all nonsense. This is not serious. And the International Committee of the Red Cross has not approached us with any such proposals."

Foreign Minister Peres yesterday told reporters who asked about a

possible swap: "Your information is premature and unfounded." Defence Minister Rabin said of rumours of an exchange: "It's news to me."

The sources in Jerusalem said that Israel would not exchange prisoners it holds for Western hostages. But they indicated that if there were a chance of a deal for the release of Israeli prisoners in Arab hands, Israel might negotiate. "We will not be guided only by the principle of not dealing with terrorists," they said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said yesterday that the U.S. "has not urged Israel or any other country" to be involved in any deal to release the American hostages.

Meanwhile, in Beirut, the Revolutionary Justice Organization, an extremist Shi'ite group holding two

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## Angered relatives protest any swap

Enraged by reports that the government is planning to swap 400 imprisoned terrorists for hostages held in Lebanon, the relatives of seven Israelis killed by Palestinian terrorists stormed into the chambers of Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar yesterday to press their demands for an order nisi to prevent the government from taking such action.

The family members were part of a larger group who had filed a petition for an order nisi that would oblige the government to show cause why it should not refrain from carrying out a prisoners-for-hostages exchange.

Carrying large placards with pictures of their deceased relatives, the protesters stormed into the chamber in which Shamgar and Justices Aharon Barak and Miriam Ben-Porath were sitting and shouted: "The

judges of Israel are liars. The blood of our children has been spilled and the government intends freeing the terrorists who murdered them. If the judges decide to free the terrorists, we personally will kill them. There is no law in Israel. We are the law. We will set up an underground and enter Arab villages and kill them all."

The demonstrators at first prevented the Supreme Court justices from leaving the chamber, and they were only extricated later by their law clerks.

Later in the day, Justice Avraham Halima decided to refer the application to a hearing before a three-justice panel this morning.

Among the protesters were the families of soldiers Akiva Shaltiel, David Bukra and Moshe Tamam, who were killed in the West Bank and the Coastal plain over the past

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## Budget storm subsides

## International talks now focus of coalition split

**By MENACHEM SHALEV**  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The national unity government yesterday appeared to have weathered the first wave of the state budget storm. Politicians in both Labour and the Likud believe, however, that the continuing dispute over an international peace conference, and the rapidly escalating rhetoric on both sides, might yet mean an early end to the coalition.

Vice Premier Peres, who as prime minister had been adamant in refusing to succumb to demands that he bring down the government, is now described by colleagues as leading those Labour politicians who believe that early elections should be considered.

Peres's confidants describe him as being "frustrated" by Prime Minister Shamir's "blocking of peace initiatives" and his "inability to exert control over the Likud."

Likud observers ascribe Peres's frustration to his relegation to the number two spot in the government.

Sources close to Peres said last night that the coalition was now in a state of "inertia." They added that if

Shamir's message to U.S. officials next week undermines Peres's ability to advance the peace process during his March visit to Egypt, the foreign minister might be able to convince his party colleagues that the government should be disbanded.

The majority within Labour — with secretary-general Uzi Baram at the forefront — do not, however, believe that the time has come to leave the coalition. They point to the desperate financial situation of the kibbutzim and other Labour-affiliated bodies. Patently, aid for them would not be forthcoming from a Likud-led transition government.

"There are good reasons to bring the government down," MK Simha Dinitz told *The Jerusalem Post* last night. "But not the right conditions."

But even those in Labour who oppose elections admit that there is a limit to the amount of aid to West Bank settlements that the party could accept.

The Likud, on the other hand, has no reason to seek new elections, political analysts stress. Shamir sees no reason for such a move, according to his supporters, especially since he has the prime minister's job. The repeated challenges to Shamir's

leadership from Herut rivals David Levy and Ariel Sharon are interpreted more as infighting before the March Herut convention than as a threat to the coalition itself.

MK Haim Kaufman told *The Post* last night that he believed the government would hold for another nine months, at least.

But it is the heated tone of the mutual accusations that has led observers to believe that the coalition's time could in fact be running out. Shamir yesterday referred to support for an international conference as "rubbish" and "madness," while Labour ministers countered by accusing Shamir of trying to derail the peace process. "He speaks only for himself," they said.

On the sidelines, MK Aharon Abuhazzeira (Tami) told *The Post* last night that "the question of the peace process is more appealing an issue to the electorate than that of aid for the kibbutzim. This government is not functioning any more."

Abuhazzeira said he believed that the Knesset would not vote for new elections. But a narrow coalition "which will function much better" was a distinct possibility.

## International peace parley

## Shamir terms Peres idea 'absurd, foolish'

**By BENNY MORRIS**  
and DVORAH GETZLER

Prime Minister Shamir yesterday attacked the concept of an international conference for Middle East peace and Foreign Minister Peres's advocacy of the conference idea.

However, Peres told the Knesset yesterday that the framework of an international conference as a starting point for direct negotiations with Jordan had been endorsed by the Knesset last October, and thus no one could overturn that decision, no matter what his position.

Briefing diplomatic correspondents prior to his departure for the U.S. on Sunday, the prime minister said that Peres's idea that the conference would be a mere formality and launching pad for direct Israeli-Arab talks was absurd and foolish.

"To go to an international conference would be madness," Shamir said. "Let's announce that we will withdraw to the 1967 boundaries and that we agree to a Palestinian state and be done with it. For that would be the upshot of an international conference."

Shamir argued that an international conference would inevitably follow the Soviet-Arab model of a

wide forum, including the five permanent UN Security Council members and the region's states. "Even regarding PLO participation we will lose. The Soviets, China and Europe will be for. The U.S. will be hesitant. And they will get in. Nobody abroad agrees to Peres's conditions [that the Soviets first re-establish ties with Israel and let their Jews emigrate: that the conference will have no decision-making powers; that the PLO will not participate, etc.]."

"Israel won't be able to resist the whole world, and the conference will convene without the Peres preconditions. And the absurd thing is that we are the main pushers, initiators of the conference. The Soviets and the Arabs don't even dream of a pro forma conference as proposed by Peres."

Peres, who addressed the Knesset before Shamir gave his press conference, defended the idea of an international conference in response to the premier's public statement on Tuesday that in the unlikely event that a proposal for an international forum came up before the cabinet, it would either be rejected out of hand

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## Temporary respite on budget

**By AVI TEMKIN**  
Post Economic Reporter

The Likud's cabinet ministers yesterday approved a compromise formula on the row over the budget which was hammered out on Tuesday by Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and coalition chairman MK Rafi Eidi.

Some hours earlier the Alignment ministers and Knesset faction also endorsed the formula, which could bring some respite, even if only temporary, to the shaky national unity government.

According to the new formula, all coalition MKs will vote for the state budget in its first reading. The Knesset Finance Committee will approve a NIS 264 million rescue package for the United Kibbutz Movement, and the Labour Party MKs will not attempt to block requests to the committee by Nissim for funds for West Bank settlers.

If all goes according to plan, the House will be summoned today for a special session to vote on the budget.

Despite this agreement, not all obstacles have been removed. The heads of both major parties attached their own interpretations to the agreement, and this could still prove

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## Food for besieged Palestinians blocked

BEIRUT (AFP). — Thousands of starving Palestinians in the besieged camp at Bourj Barajneh waited in vain again yesterday for a promised convoy of food and medicines, as renewed Shi'ite-Palestinian fighting broke out in Beirut and in south Lebanon.

Shi'ite militia blocking access to the camps, whose leaders had promised a delivery of "humanitarian" aid during the day, said they had turned back two trucks heading for the camp, in southern Beirut, because Palestinian forces were refusing to hand back positions they had occupied to the east of Sidon.

Shi'ite Amal militia leader Nabih Berri blamed "other parties" whom he declined to identify for the delay in sending in relief. He said that Bourj Barajneh would be

sent supplies if Amal could return to positions seized by Palestinian forces around Mughdoushah late last year and whose return had been negotiated.

Meanwhile, pressure for emergency aid to be delivered was continuing to build up. In Europe, French President Francois Mitterrand, the International Red Cross, the Swiss government and the Greens ecologist party in West Germany joined the list of those appealing for relief supplies for the besieged Palestinians.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat yesterday, in an audience with the French daily *Le Monde*, accused Israel of blockading Lebanese ports and intercepting 13 ships loaded with food and medical supplies he had sent to the besieged Palestinians.

## Likud MK forced out as project head

## Kochav Yair settlement's star falls

**By AVI TEMKIN**  
Post Economic Reporter

Under pressure from settlers who blame him for faulty administration and dictatorial practices, Likud MK Michael Eitan, the man who initiated the establishment of the plush new settlement of Kochav Yair, stepped down last week as head of the project.

Kochav Yair was originally conceived in 1980 by a group of Herut members headed by Eitan. Since then the project has attracted a large number of families without party affiliation, including a large contingent of high-ranking IDF officers. The \$80 million project is generally considered a success story. As head of the settlement's secretariat until last week, Eitan received between \$400 and \$500 a month for what were defined as "counselling services."

Despite its successful reputation, internal Kochav Yair documents, which reached *The Jerusalem Post*, reveal that the settlement had been mismanaged. The secretariat headed by Eitan did not present a detailed budget for the establishment of the settlement. According to the documents, there was a consider-

able lag in presenting balance sheets.

The lack of precise information made it impossible to determine whether the cost of establishing the settlement had been kept within planned spending, according to the documents.

According to the documents, the secretariat refused to employ an external auditor on a long-term basis. The secretariat agreed to employ an auditor for a three-month period, which was extended once. Under such circumstances the auditor saw no point in continuing working for the project, the documents show.

The documents state further that the project paid a Tel Aviv engineering firm some \$1.25m. to supervise the work of the construction companies. Nevertheless, there were a large number of complaints about building shortcomings and delays, and a settler seeking redress to his complaints was forced to deal with contractors on his own.

The documents question the large salaries paid to several of the project managers, some of whom are members of the secretariat. The settlement employs a general manager with a monthly salary of \$2,500,

including fringe benefits.

In addition, a special company was established to centralize purchases of materials and interior fittings as a means of lowering their cost. The documents cast doubts as to whether this purpose was achieved, and complain that the settlers did not receive reports about the company's operations.

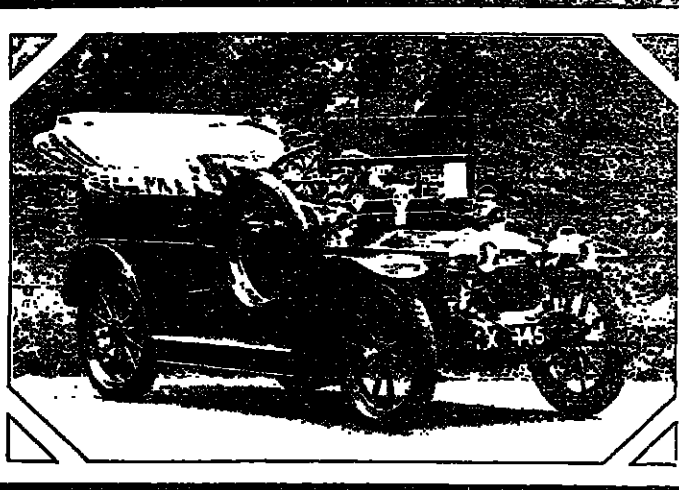
According to the documents, the secretariat headed by Eitan agreed to act as guarantor for bank loans totalling as much as \$140,000 to certain settlers, but failed to publicize the fact that all members of the settlement were eligible for such loans.

The documents acknowledge that project managers did their utmost to ensure success. Nevertheless, tensions rose in Kochav Yair in recent weeks when a group of members distributed leaflets calling for the secretariat's resignation and accusing Eitan, whom they called "big brother," of dictatorial practices.

Eitan resigned some days after the leaflets were distributed. But according to the Likud MK the entire secretariat had decided to step

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## Selling your car?



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## The weather at major Swissair destinations

	11.2.87	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	2	36	43	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	2	36	41	Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	13	55	27	Clear
CHICAGO	-5	24	8	Clear
COPENHAGEN	1	23	8	Clear
FRANKFURT	-2	28	8	Cloudy
GENEVA	8	32	7	Clear
HELSINKI	-13	-18	14	Cloudy
HONG KONG	19	48	22	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	15	59	27	Clear
LISBON	7	45	13	Clear
LONDON	5	41	7	Clear
MADRID	4	29	17	Clear
MONTREAL	-2	9	21	Snow
NEW YORK	-8	3	37	Cloudy
OSLO	-5	24	19	Cloudy
PARIS	-5	24	19	Cloudy
RUDE JANEIRO	17	62	31	Clear
SAO PAULO	17	62	31	Clear
STOCKHOLM	-3	27	8	Cloudy
TOKYO	7	45	21	Clear
TORONTO	-6	21	14	Clear
VIENNA	-2	23	8	Clear
ZURICH	4	29	19	Cloudy

\*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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### THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Max
Jerusalem	60	3-14	16
Golan	44	1-14	16
Nahariya	61	1-11	13
Safed	61	8-	-
Haifa Port	61	6-19	23
Tiberias	55	3-20	18
Nazareth	55	3-20	18
Afula	53	10-19	19
Shomron	50	9-21	23
Tel Aviv	50	6-20	22
B-G Airport	50	8-21	24
Jericho	68	9-17	19
Gaza	45	6-19	22
Beersheba	26	11-23	25
Eilat			

### SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Prof. Benno Rothenberg will speak, in English, about the work of "An Israeli Archeologist in Spain," at the ladies' luncheon of the Rotary Club at the Tel Aviv Hilton at 1.15 p.m. today.

The moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend Professor Robert Craig, and Mrs. Craig, who are visiting in Israel, called on Mayor Teddy Kollek at City Hall.

### New U.S. test

WASHINGTON (AFP). - The United States yesterday exploded another nuclear device in an underground site in Nevada.

The test, codenamed Tornado, is the second by the U.S. this year and was described as "very successful," by a Department of Energy spokesman.

The February 3 nuclear test triggered fierce protests from the Soviet Union, which has been observing a unilateral moratorium on such tests for the past 18 months.

## HOME NEWS

# U.S. arms to Arabs tops Shamir's agenda

By BENNY MORRIS

Post Diplomatic Correspondent  
Prime Minister Shamir intends to raise the issue of U.S. arms sales to Arab countries and to try to persuade the Reagan administration to formalize Israel's status as an American "ally" during his visit to Washington, which begins on Sunday.

Briefing diplomatic correspondents in his office yesterday on the aims of the week-long trip, the prime minister said a feeling has been growing in the administration that the U.S. must sell arms to Arab countries to "compensate them" for the arms sales to Iran. "There is a feeling of guilt about this in Washington," Shamir said.

"I intend to argue against this. There is no reason for guilt feelings," Shamir said, possibly implying that he will argue specifically against the intended U.S. sale of mobile Hawk surface-to-air batteries to Jordan as well as other arms sales to countries officially at war with Israel.

Shamir said that in Washington "we will speak a lot about strategic cooperation with the U.S. There are aspects that have not yet been discussed, which could be of benefit to us." He specifically mentioned discussing formal American recognition of Israel as a "major non-Nato

ally," though he suggested that the time might not yet be ripe for such "formalization."

Shamir defined as a major topic of discussions with the Americans the continuation of the peace process, which he said should take the form of "direct Israeli-Arab negotiations, without preconditions" rather than of an international conference.

Shamir said he didn't know whether the Irangate scandal would crop up in the talks with Administration figures, but he expected it to come in talks with leading senators and representatives.

Shamir reaffirmed that he intends to raise with the administration the matter of the U.S. withdrawing the "political refugee status" it accords to Soviet Jewish emigres. He said that he had previously discussed the matter with former secretary of state Alexander Haig and with Shultz, both of whom had responded that "it is up to the American Jewish leaders to ask for its repeal."

Shamir explained that the administration had decided to accord the status to the emigres because of American Jewish prompting. Shamir said he intended to speak to the Jewish community leaders about this as well.

Shamir argued that there was no reason to give the Jewish emigres refugee status, since that status is for



Prime Minister Shamir dances with children from the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Musrara who visited him in his office yesterday. The children gave Shamir a gift of fruit to mark the upcoming holiday of Tu B'Shvat. (Issac Harari)

"people who have nowhere to go, who are stateless. But Soviet Jewish emigrants, who have visas to Israel, have a homeland, have somewhere to go. It is not a matter of restricting their freedom of movement but of averting damage to Israel."

Shamir said that he would be discussing the problem of Israeli-South African relations in the U.S. "but it isn't an easy question. I don't know what they will say to us, and we won't decide beforehand" what to respond.

He added "as a small country, we are not obliged to lead the world in sanctions. We are against apartheid but also against sanctions. We ourselves were victims of sanctions."

However, Shamir said that he favoured lowering Israel's profile regarding the Israeli-South African connection. "There is no need to provoke anyone. There is Black Africa. And there are those in the U.S. [who support sanctions]."

Dvorah Getzler adds:

Israel should seek to limit its contacts with South Africa. Foreign Minister Peres told the Knesset yesterday, replying to a joint debate on the emergency situation in that country and on world-wide human rights issues. (Yesterday was International Human Rights Day.)

But, Peres stressed, Israel had sufficient problems of its own, and it neither could nor should take the lead in fighting apartheid, "that awful ideology that casts such a shadow over the world."

However, he said, Israel had voted for and would abide by all international agreements seeking to end apartheid.

Anyone who could make his peace with apartheid was not, in Peres's view, a real Jew.

Israel, he confirmed, had no desire to lord it over another people.

### Redeploying of Hawks?

WASHINGTON (AP). - President Reagan's administration is considering whether to allow Jordan to redeploy U.S.-supplied Hawk missiles as a way of keeping King Hussein from buying more Soviet weapons, officials say.

Hussein already has permitted "a small number of Soviet advisers" to remain in Jordan to help maintain previously purchased Soviet-made missiles and anti-aircraft guns, said Robert Pelletreau, deputy assistant secretary of defence.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, Pelletreau said officials were seeking a way to improve Jordanian defences without provoking rejection from Congress.

The present situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had been "forced on us."

Peres refused to relate to newspaper reports of the U.S. government committee probing contacts with South Africa. The reports he had seen, he said, made allegations about Israel's contacts with South Africa that were untrue. He said he would not comment until he saw the committee's official report.

## No end in sight to TV strife

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Television broadcasts are unlikely to resume unless striking technicians or Israel Broadcasting Authority Director-General Uri Porat agree to a compromise. The technicians have refused to return to work unless the suspension of their staff committee chairman Sion Swery is rescinded. Porat says that the decision to suspend Swery is "not negotiable."

Histadrut trade union chief Haim Haberfeld called Porat yesterday and asked him to at least defer the suspension to enable the technicians to get back to work without losing face. Porat declared that he was willing to enter into immediate negotiations with the technicians for new and improved work agreements, but would not budge as far as Swery was concerned.

Haberfeld's phone call was followed up with a call to Porat by Zalman Shenkman, the Histadrut national secretary of the Engineers' and Technicians' Union. Shenkman suggested a meeting between himself, Porat, Haberfeld and other interested parties. Porat raised no objections.

The meeting did not take place yesterday because Haberfeld was tied up with other labour unrest. It was not certain whether the three

men would be able to get together today.

The staff committee of the TV productions branch yesterday issued a statement condemning the Histadrut and its Technicians' Union for failing to support the TV technicians and to protest against the suspension of the chairman of their staff committee. They said that the Histadrut's failure should be noted by other unions, and added that they would apply to the Israel Journalists' Association for its protection.

Porat and the IBA management committee insist that even though Swery may not have directly given the order to stop transmission of Sunday's NBA All-Star basketball game from Seattle, Washington, he was guilty by association. They claim that the sudden arrival in the middle of the night of Histadrut representative Avraham Sholond at Television House was a planned ploy to deflect responsibility for the sabotage from Swery to Sholond.

Since the famous incident 13 months ago, when Swery's predecessor Hezy Koka was suspended for blacking out a segment of a Mabat news broadcast, Porat has ceaselessly warned that anyone who deliberately interferes with broadcasts will be summarily dismissed.

In Koka's case, the strike lasted

for four days, and ended only after back to work orders were issued by the Jerusalem District Labour Court. The IBA management is presently considering two options: either going to court again, or, in self defence, instigating a lock-out.

Koka, who is currently on leave of absence from ITV, turned up at IBA headquarters on Tuesday night to support the anti-management demonstration staged by his colleagues. While the other technicians shouted for Porat to resign and go home, Koka started a fresh chant: "Porat for the Second Channel. Ruin that one too."

MK Pinhas Goldstein, who is in charge of the Knesset committee dealing with the implementation of legislation for the Second Channel, said yesterday that the current ruckus at Television House was yet another example of the need to introduce an efficiently run alternative.

During the strike, the experimental broadcasts of the Second Channel will be expanded to three hours, from 7 to 10 p.m., and will include classical music in addition to contemporary music.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein last night extended the second TV channel's experimental broadcasts by an hour.

## IN PERSON BENNY MORRIS

### Sarid: Halt politically provoked complaints

Citizens Rights Movement MK Yossi Sarid called upon the police, the attorney-general and the state comptroller "to put an end to the burgeoning trend [by right-wing politicians] of lodging complaints with the authorities against their political opponents for political ends."

Sarid was referring to four incidents: Tehiya MK Gula Cohen's complaint to the police against him, Labour MK Abdul Wahab Darousha and Mapam MK Mohammed Wattad for their appearance earlier this week as interviewees in Jordan Television, the complaint by Gush Emunim lawyer Eliakim Ha'etzi against Faisal Hussein for declaring in an interview in *The Jerusalem Post* that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people, which has resulted in police charges being filed; the Herut activists' complaint against Labour leader Shimon Peres for accepting a watch as a present from financier David Balas; and Deputy Interior Minister Ronni Milo's complaint to the state comptroller against Energy Minister Moshe Shahal (Labour) regarding his qualifications as a lawyer.

"The common denominator here was the political nature, provocative [nature] and aims of the complaints," says Sarid. He believes that the authorities must immediately call a halt to the phenomenon by declaring it "unacceptable" and by publicly reprimanding those whose complaints have been found to be politically motivated and insubstantial. "This will deter similar future complaints," says Sarid.

He believes that the phenomenon is "dangerous to democracy" and if it is not halted immediately, it will "increase in frequency." Moreover, the authorities, subjected to a flood of such complaints, will inevitably succumb to "mental fatigue and, on the tenth complaint, believing that there is no smoke without fire or just to appease the plaintiffs, will act upon it."

Sarid expects from this context the charges recently filed against the four left-wing activists who participated in a peace symposium with the PLO in Bucharest. "These people were warned that they were violating the law and chose to challenge the system, to put the law on trial, as it were, in the courts. This is legitimate in democracies. This is done by people who wish to challenge what they regard as an improper law. But this is something completely different from the cases we are talking about."

Sarid defines Cohen's complaint against him regarding the Jordan TV appearance as "absurd." The appearance was a good sign, Sarid says, adding, "I would welcome it if Syrian TV also asks MKs who represent Zionist parties for interviews and broadcast them. This, indeed, would be cause for rejoicing."

Sarid notes that Cohen was alone in making this complaint, "whereas usually there is a whole chorus. She probably acted out of internal Tehiya-related motives [where a battle is on among the party's MKs for the leadership] and she wanted to sound holier than the pope."

## Eban: U.S. flubbed on Iran

By ASHER WALLFISH

Post Knesset Correspondent

Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee chairman Abba Eban said yesterday that the American plan to use arms sales to Iran as a lever to help free hostages and to promote contacts with Iranian leaders was "a badly conceived proposal whose results proved to be negative on both counts."

Eban told *The Jerusalem Post* that on the strength of the hearings which his sub-committee had held so far, on Israel's part in getting American arms to Iran, he had concluded that "there is no reason that any Israeli official should be blamed in view of the fact that they had carried out no illegal or subversive actions."

Eban said it was clear that the plan was conceived by the Americans and then put to Israel for comment and assistance.

"The United States does not have a legitimate grievance against us," he said.

Eban said that sources in the U.S. Senate committee probing the arms deals were not being "fair" by spreading "gossip" about Israeli officials without having heard from the two U.S. officials closely involved, Oliver North and Robert McFarlane.

## Jordan TV's Israeli interviews spark probe

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Prime Minister Shamir has ordered an investigation into the Jordan TV interviews of several Knesset Members, Israel Radio reported last night.

In a consultation with fellow ministers, Shamir ordered an investigation into whether Jordan TV is represented in Israel, and whether giving interviews to an enemy state's TV channel is a criminal offence.

Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, yesterday gave an interview to Jordan TV, joining three other MKs who had already done so. This interview is to be broadcast next week. Other MKs interviewed were Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) and Mapam's Elazar Granot and Mohammed Wattad.

Eban told Israel Radio last night that it is important that the Jordanian public hear Israel's official standpoint, and not only the views of the opposition.

## Sweep of Balata nets 30

By JOEL GREENBERG

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Security forces staged a sweep late Tuesday night in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus, arresting at least 30 camp residents and putting nine in administrative detention.

Camp residents said security men arrived at homes with lists of persons to be arrested. The total numbers of persons detained was unclear and some reports said as many as 70 persons had been taken into custody.

The arrests set off protests yesterday in Balata. A crowd of children pelted soldiers with stones and women organized to march to the Red Cross offices in Nablus.

Troops blocked the marchers and dispersed them with tear gas. Sources in the camp said. About 100 women including mothers of detainees, later walked in small groups to the Nablus municipality building, where they staged a sit-in and were met by Mayor Hafez Fouqan, the sources said.

A military spokesman said nine Balata men aged 19-25 were placed in administrative detention, some for three months and others for six. The nine are suspected of incitement, stone-throwing, raising Palestinian flags and harassing camp residents they suspected of cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

Over 50 Palestinians are now in administrative detention.

The al-Rawdah College in Nablus was ordered closed for the day after students set up stone barricades and threw stones onto a road near the campus.

At Hebron University, troops used tear-gas to drive students into the campus after they raised a Palestinian flag, set up barricades and threw stones on a nearby road. Soldiers surrounded the campus until the students dispersed quietly in the late afternoon. Thirty were arrested.

### Lifer gets four months for holding illegal \$s

BEERSHEBA (Itim). - A prisoner who is serving a life sentence for murder was yesterday sentenced by the district court here to an additional four months in jail for illegal possession of \$2,130.

The money was found during a routine search of Avishai Nagar's cell. The judge also fined him NIS 200 and ordered him to pay the fine by cashing some of the dollars.

## No more fooling, singing

In a decision likely to end what many consider to be the only redeeming feature of election campaigns, a coalition team decided yesterday that election advertisements shall no longer include elements of "entertainment, comedy or singing."

The team, headed by Minister Gad Ya'acobi and comprising Ministers Moshe Shahal, Amnon Rubinstein, Moshe Arens and Haim Corfu, and MK Sarah Doron, also decided to shorten the period in which election propaganda is allowed to be on television and 30 days for other forms of campaigning.

The committee will recommend to coalition leaders that they approve private member's bills that would enable representatives of the state abroad to vote by post.

The committee is still considering two other important proposals. The first would determine that elections be held 45 days after the Knesset decides to disperse. The second would institute constituency elections for local municipal councils, rather than the present system of proportional representation.

Chief Rabbinate of Israel  
Jerusalem Religious Council  
Kashrut Dept.  
12 Shvat, 5747 - Feb. 11, 1987

### Notice to the Public

After it was made clear to us that the owner of the Nof Yerushalayim Hall had no knowledge of the event taking place in the hall, and after he cancelled the arrangements with the individual who arranged the event in question, and in the light of the hotel owner's undertaking to act within the bounds of propriety in future events in the hall, and declared that he would be personally responsible for this and heed rabbinical instructions in this respect, we have decided to restore the kashrut status of the Nof Yerushalayim Halls.

Kashrut Dept.

### TODAY -

#### Civil Defence Exercise in Nazareth Area

A civil defence exercise will be held today, Thursday, February 12 in the Nazareth area. There will be simulated firing and explosions and sirens will be sounded. In case of an actual alert, sirens will be sounded on an ascending/descending scale.

## Court wants to know why yeshiva students don't serve

The High Court of Justice yesterday ordered the defence minister to produce a step by step account of his ministry's decisions and the reasons behind them which led to the postponement of military service for yeshiva students. The minister was required to produce these records, covering the entire period since the founding of the state, within 60 days.

The High Court ruling was delivered in response to an application for an order nisi submitted by attorney Yehuda Ressler. The petition asks the court to order the minister to show cause why yeshiva students should not be called up for military service.

The practice since Israel's first years has been to postpone the compulsory military service of yeshiva students, periodically, until they are old enough to be exempt from military service. It is estimated that at present there are over 11,000 yeshiva students benefiting from this arrangement. When the practice was introduced in the early 1950s, the number of yeshiva students was in the hundreds.

The petitioner said that previous applications had been rejected by the court on the grounds that he had no standing in the matter, meaning that he personally did not suffer from the fact that yeshiva students did not serve in the armed forces.

He noted that he was now reapplying for an order nisi following the High Court decisions in the Shin Bet, Nakash and summer-time cases, which indicated that the court was prepared to consider public petitions without insisting on proof of personal standing.

He argued that any decision to exempt yeshiva students from military service had to be based on express Knesset legislation and not on administrative orders which reflected political and coalition considerations.

State Attorney representative Tamar Hecker said that the state had recognized the study of Torah as a paramount value and had therefore exempted the students in 370 yeshivas from military service. She added that if these students were coerced into serving - against what they saw as a divine order - they would be of little, if any, use to the armed forces.

To  
**Bill Cahn**  
and  
**Abe Lincoln**  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
Regards  
**Joe and Brian**  
**Safari Restaurant**

In deep sorrow, we announce the death  
on February 11, 1987, of

**JOHN H. WHITE**

He bequeathed his body to science.

Greatly mourned by:  
His wife: Joyce  
Son: Moshe, and Irit,  
Yael, Yaron and Michal  
Daughter: Ruth, and Victor  
Niv, and Oren Goldberg  
Sister: Rosemarie, and Henry-Kingale  
and Family  
and many relatives and friends

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

**JOHN H. WHITE**

He bequeathed his body to science.

Mourning by: Mrs. Pearl White  
Ruth Goldberg and Family  
Moshe Goldberg and Family











# Urban safety

Jonathan Karp

IN JANUARY 1986, President Chaim Herzog and Transport Minister Haim Cori hosted a reception at Beit Hanassi to inaugurate Israel's participation in the International Year of Highway Safety. Nineteen years later, the country's road safety record is still a cause for concern. Road accidents rose from 12,777 in 1985 to 14,576, an increase of 14.1 per cent.

Dr. Moshe Becker, a leading road safety expert at the Haifa Technion, underlined the horrific implication of this statistic by pointing out that it translates into 1,800 more accidents. Yet, he stressed, there has been little outcry from the authorities.

"Road accidents are not treated like security issues," Becker said. "If you were discussing 1,800 stabbings or bombings that injured people, not as an increase from one year to the next but as a total for one year, I think something would have happened in Israeli society. Knesset members would be restless; they would feel that Israel is under a major threat."

Since 1968, Becker has repeatedly noted the discrepancy between the government's and the public's approach to road safety and to crime. But last year, he believes, was a turning point, as all efforts to increase the awareness of this problem came to a halt.

"A society, like a living body, develops its defence mechanisms according to its perception of a problem. If it perceives a problem to be severe, it will prepare itself to stand against it. If it disregards it, the problem will grow without anyone noticing."

"From the beginning of statehood, we have a situation in which the sum total of people injured and killed in

road accidents is more serious than all the wars and security problems we have had," Becker stressed.

THOUGH A complete statistical breakdown for last year will be available only in May, the figures recently issued by the Israel Police show increases for 1986 in most of the major categories. In comparison to 1985, deaths last year rose from 387 to 415, fatal accidents from 326 to 368, and injuries by nearly 2,500 from 18,710 to 21,204.

Becker said he agreed with the analysis of the director of the road safety administration, Aetian Ben-Yehoshua, that the reduction in fuel prices led to more use of automobiles. But he asserted that the greater density on the roads accounted for only half of the increase in accidents. In his opinion, the other half resulted from the breakdown in prevention activity.

Becker warned that we must swim faster against the rising stream of motorization. With approximately 190 vehicles per 1,000 population, Israel is still far behind the Western European figure of around 430 per 1,000. But he predicted that within 20 years our road fleet will double, and reach a level similar to that of Western Europe today.

THE GROWING congestion on Israel's roads affected both urban and inter-urban travel in 1986. But the statistics were particularly discouraging for urban areas, where there was three times as much traffic and four times as many accidents as on inter-urban roads.

In total accidents, there was a greater increase on inter-urban roads, 15.9 per cent compared to 13.6 per cent. However, fatal acci-

dents grew by 9.4 per cent, compared to 16.2 per cent on urban roads. Thus, it appears that accidents in cities are becoming more serious.

The number of deaths from road accidents was almost equal on urban and inter-urban roads, 204 and 211 respectively, though in the past inter-urban accidents have usually claimed significantly more lives.

Another statistical departure from the norm was that in 1986 deaths in urban accidents increased by 20 per cent, while inter-urban fatalities declined by 2.8 per cent.

Becker cautioned against optimism regarding the latter, explaining that a single inter-urban crash in 1985, at Hahonin, resulted in 22 deaths, thus exaggerating certain comparisons with 1984 and 1986.

THE ESCALATING road accident problem in Israel's cities reflects two related trends in national transport, namely more traffic and not enough commitment to making the proper adjustments, according to Becker.

In addressing the problem of adjusting to new conditions, Becker placed great emphasis on infrastructure development, especially in cities that have experienced increases in through-traffic.

For example, Haifa suffered a 39.2 per cent increase in accidents, in 1986, causing a comparable rise in injuries. In the first nine months of the year, the Haifa Bay towns through which traffic flows heavily into and out of the city, saw a massive 80 per cent increase in accidents, according to Becker.

Jerusalem experienced a 20 per cent rise in accidents, and 44.8 per cent more fatal accidents.

Oddly enough, Tel Aviv, where 45 per cent of all last year's road acci-



(Yitzhak Elharar)

dents took place, saw a rise in accidents of only 12.2 per cent. But while this was below the national urban average, the rates in the Tel Aviv suburbs were well above it, at least in the first nine months. In Holon, accidents rose 38 per cent; in Ramat Hasharon, 35 per cent; in Bnei Brak, 29 per cent; and in Ramat Gan, 20 per cent.

In two towns farther away from Tel Aviv which also serve as major through-ways, the number of accidents were small but the increases were more dramatic. Hod Hasharon, perched between Petah Tikva and Ra'anana, experienced 52 per cent more accidents, and Yahud's nine-month total rose by 156 per cent.

The trend is clear, but the precise causes of these through-traffic urban accidents will not be determined until a comprehensive analysis of the injuries is made. Such a study, which is supported by several road-safety officials, should focus on how road improvements or the compulsory wearing of seatbelts in urban areas would have affected each accident's outcome.

TWO OTHER factors which are important in understanding urban accidents are pedestrians and buses. Last year, pedestrians comprised more than a fifth of all those injured in road accidents, and 93 per cent of them were injured in cities.

Pedestrians made up the single largest group of those seriously injured, nearly half, and accounted for 136 of the 204 deaths in urban accidents.

The groups that were most affected were the elderly, 60 years old and above, and children of 14 years and younger. This population makes up 60 per cent of all pedestrians, and accidents involving children and the elderly, especially in Tel Aviv and Haifa, rose above the national average.

Becker said these statistics, particularly the deaths, were discouraging because in the past, pedestrian deaths had dropped even when the total number of accidents increased. Before last year, there had been a general downward trend in pedestrian deaths from 308 in 1977 to 163 in 1985.

It remains to be seen precisely how and where pedestrians were injured. Statistics showed that a higher proportion of accidents involving pedestrians occurred at intersections, though it was still less than half. Becker said the predominant pattern was that children were struck while playing in the street during the day, and the elderly were struck while crossing in the evening or at night.

Pedestrians must be made aware of the law, which states that they may cross only on a zebra crossing unless there is not one within 50 metres. Becker stressed that long city blocks should be well-lighted to increase night safety for those who cross in the middle of the block, but he also urged pedestrians to cross "defensively," even on zebra crossings, and not to rely on drivers to stop for them.

Ben-Yehoshua said he believed that information campaigns could reverse the dwindling safety awareness among pedestrians. His idea to bring pedestrians into the enforcement side of road safety was the basis of the *mila shel sahar* (word of gold) campaign planned to start in March. *Zahav* is also the Hebrew acronym for "road safety," and during the programme every pedestrian will be encouraged to be his brother's keeper by criticizing other pedestrians for unsafe conduct on the streets.

THE INCIDENCE of bus accidents is too high, given the size of the fleet and the number of kilometres they travel. Becker asserted. Based on 1985 figures, buses travelled on the average four times farther than cars, but were involved in nine times as many accidents.

Last year, buses made up only 6.3

per cent of all road accidents, but the estimate of buses in urban accidents is higher.

"Buses are over-involved in accidents because bus drivers are not sufficiently aware that they have a more complex vehicle to handle," Becker charged. "I believe that some of the drivers of public buses do not appreciate the extra care they need to control the vehicle due to factors such as visibility, taking curves, and the sensitivity of standing passengers to braking."

At the same time, he noted, buses are six times safer than private cars on a passenger-per-kilometre basis, and public transport should be encouraged by the government.

EVEN CONSIDERING last year's uptick in road accidents, in terms of deaths per 100,000 population, Israel compares favourably with other countries which are at roughly the same level of motorization. This, however, doesn't satisfy Becker.

"I don't want to compare myself to the bad examples and say I am better than them. I ask myself what more I can do to improve our situation," he said.

Improving the situation, as Becker said, is a direct function of whether or not a problem is perceived. To his dismay, Israel's road safety problem is not thought of as a cancer gradually eating away at society, but rather as a virus that springs up in the form of major accidents like the one in Ashdod in 1981 (27 killed), the 1985 Hahonin collision (22 killed), or last year's Hefziba crash (10 killed).

This mentality especially undermines concern for urban safety on urban roads, where there are few major tragedies but a steady, and increasing, stream of casualties.

# Mountain Jews and legends

THERE AND THEN / Sraya Shapiro



Yehzekel Nissanov (Sraya Shapiro)

WE HAD TWO doctors at the Herzliya *gymnasia*. One was Dr. A.D. Friedman, a silent East European intellectual whose main interest lay in literature and who was known for his contributions to literary periodicals. The other was Dr. Binyamini, a lanky Caucasian with a characteristic nose and gruff manner. While Dr. Friedman never doubted the integrity of a student's complaint, Dr. Binyamini would often greet his patients with an exclamation, "Oh, there is a test in mathematics again tomorrow?" But while Dr. Friedman was respected, Dr. Binyamini was loved.

The "Gurgis" (as the Caucasian Jews were called) had a special place in the panoply of immigrant groups in the tiny Yishuv at the turn of the century. They were not many, but they were renowned for their straightforwardness and valour. The first four watchmen of the Tel Aviv local council were Gurgis, of course.

But the Gurgis had long before become a legend through the feats of the Nissanov brothers. They were both watchmen and members of the Hashomer group, whose vow was to defend Jewish property from Arab marauders.

The story of the Caucasian Jews in Eretz Yisrael is now recorded at length in a mimeographed book compiled in Hebrew by Yitzhak David. It begins with the prophet Ezekiel and his fellow deportees from Israel who, in the author's view, must have reached the Caucasian mountains; and ends in the early 1940s, two decades or so before the great influx of the Georgians from the Soviet Union.

According to legend, the first Jews to reach the Caucasus were pioneers from the Ten Tribes who left ancient Israel. Later, as legend has it, Jews went there from Eretz Yisrael to help disseminate the new creed of the Nazarene redeemer, only to suffer at the hands of the defenders of old and new faiths alike.

It seems that there was always a small trickle of migration, to and fro between the Caucasus and Palestine, however improbable it may seem to logical-minded historians. But the Middle East has never been a stagnant society. Marco Polo would never have been able to make his epic journey without a constant flow of trade and adventure across the continent.

Anyway, in the course of the 19th century quite sizeable contingents of "mountain Jews" from the Caucasus reached Jerusalem. Apparently, most of them were very poor. Being neither Ashkenazi nor Sephardi, they could not even claim assistance from either side. But they retained the ancestral pride and courage of the hill people.

THEY ALSO retained their customs. When Yehzekel Nissanov was killed by Arab marauders, his mother insisted that her second son, Zvi, avenge his brother's death according to the custom of the East—by killing someone related to the killer by blood or neighbourhood. And she was very upset when Zvi refused as he was by oath bound to follow the Hashomer rule not to retaliate for murder by murder.

Incidentally, Zvi Nissanov suffered nevertheless, for he was sentenced, on a trumped-up charge of attempted murder, to three years in prison—only the intervention in Istanbul of his colleague in Hashomer, Yisrael Shohat, reduced the sentence by nearly half. Another legendary figure of that period was Zvi Becker, also a mountain Jew.

As for Dr. Binyamini, Yitzhak David records, he fought in the Turkish army, and took part in the bloody engagement with the British outside Gaza—of the 1,200 men in Binyamini's contingent only 90 survived. But when the Turks retreated northwards, Binyamini remained in Be'er Tuviya, with the Jewish workers there; and when the British troops entered the place, he gave himself up and was detained as a prisoner-of-war for a year.

Subsequently he worked for the International Red Cross. He also joined the Ahdut Ha'Avoda party, but later became chairman of the Revisionist group in Tel Aviv—he liked clear-cut definitions of aims. However, he did not persist in politics, political intrigue is not a mountain Jew's forte.

Yitzhak David also includes Yosef Trumpeldor among the Georgians, which is technically true, as he was born in Pyatigorsk. His father, however, was an East European Jew who had been abducted by the Czar's agents as a child and served in the army for 25 years.

Had the author pursued his study to these days, he would have noted the fact that 18 Georgian families were the first group of Soviet Jews to demand repatriation to Israel. He might also have noted that the encounter of the Georgian immigrants with Israeli society was not always plain sailing; the independent spirit of the newcomers fitted badly with the regulations and customs that had evolved here before their arrival.

One day, many years ago, a stocky Georgian, walking with difficulty and with the aid of a stick, climbed up to the office of *The Jerusalem Post* in Tel Aviv. Speaking half Russian, half Hebrew, he requested that *The Post* write about the valour of these first rebels, among whom he apparently had been. He waved his stick in warning that we comply with his demand.

We did not comply and he never came back. But, of course, his pride in his Zionist rebellion was absolutely legitimate.

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To make 4 servings:

**Ingredients:**  
1 package (400 g.) frozen Halibut  
1 cup of water  
Juice of one lemon  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 medium carrot, chopped  
8 whole peppercorns (black pepper)  
2 whole peppercorns (English pepper)  
1 bay leaf  
1/2 cup dry white wine  
Chopped parsley for decoration.

**Preparation:**  
Thaw out Halibut and put to one side. Place all ingredients (except parsley) in a wide saucepan and heat over a small flame. Add Halibut fillets and cover. Cook over a small flame for 8-10 minutes, or until fillets are ready. Don't overcook! Use a spatula to remove the fish from the sauce. Serve with cooked vegetables and garnish with parsley. The sauce can be thickened by cooking over medium flame until the amount of liquid is reduced by half, and served with the Halibut.

Bon appetit!

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# Doubts surface over 'big bang'

LONDON (AP). — Some people in Britain's financial circles are wondering if the "big bang" will turn into a big bust.

In some quarters inside and outside of the City, London's financial district, optimism and pride over Britain's huge financial deregulation have turned into fear and embarrassment.

Although investors benefit from the increased competition big bang has brought — in the form of lower commission costs — stockbrokers' profits and high-flying salaries are feeling the squeeze.

If and when the bull stock market turns bearish, some financial companies are expected to go out of business. Traders already are paying for the new open hiring with open firing.

Big bang also has been marred by coincidental insider trading scandals and the resulting concerns that the government hasn't replaced the old system with regulations adequate to protect investors from fraud.

"There will be some blood on the floor, no doubt about it," said Tony Barnes, managing director overseeing the European financial services division of Korn-Ferry International, an executive-recruitment firm.

"The feeling that the City could go on and on, that the merry-go-round would never come to a stop, has come to an end, it's happening quicker than people thought."

Overall, the City's reputation has suffered. When the Institute of Directors, a business leaders' group, recently asked 200 company directors what they thought of the City's image, 59 per cent said it was worse than before big bang.

Opposition members in Parliament increasingly have criticized the Conservative government's handling of City affairs in well-publicized attacks. Critics say Britain is focusing too much attention on its service sector at the expense of its manufac-

turing industries, some of them hard-hit.

Under big bang, minimum commission rates were abolished, the distinction between brokers and jobbers — those who make markets in a stock — was ended, and foreign firms were allowed to become members of the London Stock Exchange.

In the long run, big bang is supposed to make it easier and cheaper for companies to raise funds.

The bulk of the changes took effect on October 27 and were intended to ensure London's place as a major financial centre in an increasingly global market.

That appears to be working according to plan. *The Economist* magazine said monthly equity tur-

**"We have independent evidence that lower transaction costs increase turnover. The question is will the response be enough? ... A lot of people still expect a big fallout."**

nover on the exchange rose from \$17.55 billion in September to \$21.4b. in December.

But almost half of all trading in British equities now is free of commission. On the remaining trades, commissions have fallen 40 per cent to 0.25 per cent, the magazine said. It said it assumes that the average spread between the best offer and bid price has fallen to 1 per cent from 1.58 per cent.

Three months after big bang, few large financial firms are making money dealing in domestic equities and many are losing a bundle. *The Economist* reported in its January 24 issue.

More than half of the 27 dealers of gilt, British government bonds, are

unprofitable, the magazine said.

It estimated that annualized revenue from commissions and market-making by jobbers and stockbrokers on the London Stock Exchange was more than halved from \$1.3b. in the January to September 1986 period to an annualized rate of \$622.5 million in December.

And the firms have had to bear much higher costs, it noted, including computer expenses and bigger payrolls.

Giles and Overbury, one of London's oldest independent stockbrokers, went out of business in January. The firm declared itself insolvent after its parent, Charnley Davies, an insurance broker, encountered problems from expanding too quickly on borrowed money. *The Times* of London reported.

Mercantile House Holdings PLC, parent of stockbroker Alexander's and Cruickshank, recently reported that its profit in the six-month period ended October 31 sank 17 per cent to \$40.65m. Mercantile cited, in part, the cost of preparing for big bang.

Mervyn King, a professor at the London School of Economics, said: "We have independent evidence that lower transaction costs do increase turnover. The question is, will the response be big enough? That is as of yet unknown, a lot of people still expect a big fallout."

William Landreth, head of equities at Goldman Sachs International Corp., said: "What is frightening is that these concerns are arising when volume is up and the market is high. If the market reverses, I think you would have losses."

British firms "have to be concerned because they have a lot of people chewing away at them at different sides," Landreth said, referring to the impact of American and Japanese entrants in the market.

Average salaries, which rose 50-100 per cent before big bang, are expected to fall back by 15-25 per

cent in some big bang jobs, *The Economist* said.

And new staff members already are walking through the doors of the agency that recruited them, looking for another job, the magazine said.

"Either their employers are disillusioned with them or, more rarely, they with the job," it said.

Barnes, the executive recruiter, said some British firms may feel more of a squeeze because they locked themselves into higher salaries instead of using the American firms' flexible bonus system.

In the inevitable shake-out, the firms that made fewer mistakes in big bang are expected to dominate the City, gobbling up the less efficient.

"The rich and smart will get richer and smarter, and the rest will have to fend for themselves," said Barnes.

Big bang was followed by a succession of insider trading scandals. Although the alleged wrongdoings generally took place before big bang, the two are probably intertwined in the minds of the public.

The most publicized scandal has been at Guinness PLC, the giant brewer. The company has admitted repurchasing its stock illegally last year to boost the share price and improve its chances of beating out a rival bidder for Distillers Co.

More embarrassing for the government, perhaps, was the announcement in December that the Department of Trade and Industry would conduct an internal investigation into allegations that civil servants had leaked inside information to make stock profits.

"The Guinness affair has plunged the City into a mood of gloom, anxiety and even, in some quarters, despair," wrote *The Financial Times*. People with long memories say they cannot recall a time when the City's reputation has been so badly battered by scandal, or when the threat of political repercussions has loomed so large.

(The second of two parts)

## THE TAX BURDEN/Jeff Broide

### Is the tax man wrong?

In the July 10 column, which concerned lease-buy transactions, it was noted that the Clalit case had effectively changed the nature of such arrangements. The court ruled that the leasing company was liable for taxes from the signing of the lease on the car, not at the end of the term. "It was unreasonable," said the judge, "that the lessor would surrender the car and obtain a refund of his money [as the leasing contract permitted] unlinked and bearing no interest."

It must be stressed that certain factors of the Clalit case differ from those commonly encountered in business, particularly those involving lease-buy deals for machin-

linked. It would, therefore, appear that in cases where the depreciation period and lease period coincide, the difference between what the taxpayer treated as deductible lease payments, and what the tax man considered to be deductible, namely, the depreciation charges, may not be all that material.

This is the case, for example, generally speaking, under lease-buy transactions of computers. However, in many other cases, the differences may be substantial. This interpretation by local assessing officers was confirmed by a senior official in the income tax office.

The tax authorities hold to the viewpoint that the reasonable taxpayer is unlikely, at the end of the period of the lease, to forgo ownership of the asset, particularly since, generally speaking, a rather small amount is required to be paid in order to exercise the option. But, is this correct?

Such lease-buy contracts may well be changed into rental agreements once this option is not exercised. One senior tax official said that in such a case the tax authorities would have to consider reopening assessments for prior years in order to rectify the situation; but that they had not yet determined their stand on this matter. It would seem that the very existence of this option at the end of the lease, which means in essence that the contract may remain purely a rental one, must cast considerable doubt upon the interpretation of the tax authorities.

In addition, there is no logical reason why rental payments, like many other payments in the economy, should not be linked and rise with changes in the price index. This would negate the standpoint of the tax authorities that any differences between the nominal rental payments and the amounts actually paid constitute "finance charges."

In the absence of further clarification by the tax authorities, and in the absence of a clear-cut decision in the courts on this matter, many taxpayers may conclude that it is worthwhile to enter into purely rental contracts, thus avoiding the lease-buy pitfall. This is particularly relevant in the computer and electronics field where, for example, leases are generally for five years. If one takes account of the rapid rate of development in such fields, the taxpayer may well have no interest in purchasing the asset at the end of the period and may, therefore, every couple of years sign on a rental agreement for the hire of a new or different asset.

While the stand of the tax authorities is clear, considerable doubts remain in the minds of the taxpayer.

The writer is a certified Public Accountant (Israel). Questions may be addressed to him c/o The Jerusalem Post.

**It would seem that the very existence of the option to buy at the end of the lease must cast considerable doubt upon the interpretation of the tax authorities.**

ery and equipment. With machinery and equipment, the lease period may coincide with the depreciation period, thus strengthening the case for deducting at least the rental portion. However, the doubts raised by the Clalit case are not easily removed.

The income tax authorities apparently see the situation a little differently. Generally speaking, they insist on treating the financial lease as a means of financing an outright purchase and, therefore, seek to split the lease-buy transaction into two: the purchase of the asset on which depreciation is granted, and the finance portion which bears a direct relation to finance charges and the deductibility or non-deductibility of such finance charges, depending on the situation of the taxpayer. In other words, the tax man is saying, you, the taxpayer, may claim depreciation on the asset purchased on the nominal value; however, the finance charges (namely, exchange-rate differences, interest and other bank charges) must be treated as regular finance charges for tax purposes and treated accordingly.

Thus, where the depreciation period and the lease period do not coincide, there will be differences — even substantial differences — in the amounts deductible. In addition, certain taxpayers — for example, certain self-employed taxpayers who do not operate a double-entry system of accounting, may only be permitted to deduct 20 per cent of their finance charges.

It should be noted that under the current Inflationary Tax Law, depreciation is linked to 50 per cent of the change in the consumer price index. For the years 1982, 1983 and 1984, such depreciation allowance was fully

## TOURISM BRIEFS/Greer Fay Cashman

### Number going down under likely to go up

The recent visit to Israel by Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke may not necessarily be a springboard to the establishment of air links between the two countries, but it has apparently evoked more interest in

Australia by potential Israeli tourists.

Gideon Thaler, Qantas Airways manager for Israel says 4,000 people travelled last year from Israel to Australia, and there are indications that the number will increase substantially this year. Round-trip tickets purchased and utilized before April 1 cost \$1,549 on the route via the Far East and \$1,649 on the West-bound route via Los Angeles. The uniform air fare regulations imposed in Israel don't permit the

airline companies to compete on price.

**THE SECOND ANNUAL** Tourism Mission of the Israel Bonds National Rabbinic Cabinet concluded this week in Jerusalem, where the agenda was promoting tourism from the pulpit. The 110 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis participating were given special workshops on how to put across the concept of an organized tour. Following last year's inaugural NRC tourism mission, 113 congregational group tours from the U.S. and Canada visited Israel.

**ANOTHER INCENTIVE** for Americans and Canadians to visit Israel is the publication and distribution on a quarterly basis of a calendar of current events. A joint effort by the Ministry of Tourism and the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, the publication will list English-language conferences, lectures, seminars and conventions, as well as art exhibitions, musical events, plays, sports and archaeological digs. The calendar will be advertised in the international edition of *The Jerusalem Post* and will be distributed by Igto offices, airlines, travel agencies and Jewish and non-Jewish organizations abroad.

**JANUARY SHOWED** an 8 per cent jump in tourism from year earlier levels, with 74,400 tourists visiting Israel, the Central Statistics Office reported this week. Accounting for seasonal changes, the report said that January's figures were similar to the previous two months.

The first 10 months of 1986 showed a substantial decrease in tourism, but since November, the number of tourists entering Israel has returned to pre-1986 levels.

**IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS**, kosher was synonymous with *heimisch*. Now it's gourmet or French or Chinese or even Japanese. Kosher cooks and chefs around the world are constantly coming up with new ways to beat the dietary laws and to give the kosher diner a taste of previously forbidden fruit. The Ramada Renaissance hotel chefs in Jerusalem are off to New York to pick up a few tips in this direction when they participate in the Kosher Food and Jewish Life Expo at the Jacob Javitz Convention Centre.

### Trading old shekels for Sixth Fleet dollars

HAIFA (Itim). — Sixth Fleet sailors got a raw deal here this week when they sold dollars to Arnon Kazaz, police say.

The Americans got old shekels from Kazaz instead of new ones, a police representative said in a magistrates' court remand hearing yesterday.

Kazaz denied the allegations, and the court agreed to release him on bail of 15,000 new shekels.



## CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**  
6 Given push it should clean up a pile (6-7)  
8 Hollow demand by aggressive Scargillite (6)  
9 Hitch which proves to be a diversion for train travellers (4-4)  
10 A letter from Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (3)  
11 Scramble aboard the bus when Chernobyl is in operation (4,2)  
12 Tears around river to reveal hidden wealth (8)  
14 Changed sides when thwarted (7)  
16 One who spies the originator of Gamesmanship (7)  
20 Lied swallowing lots of water when infected (8)

23 Solar winds taking in one accustomed to terrestrial ones (6)  
24 Spot nothing in the initial version of this paper (3)  
25 Will writer try out the first 18 letters (8)  
26 Sick in the forepart of the ship? Must be the ocean wave (6)  
27 Timid method, but it has a sensational response (7,6)

**DOWN**  
1 A small amount of water causes lower rents (8)  
2 A lot of words properly pronounced only by judges (8)

3 Cut off a confession of excessive unpunctuality (7)  
4 Take the top form (6)  
5 They make light of upsets (6)  
6 Homer using warship jargon, we hear (7,8)  
7 Act as expected from king disloyal to class (3,4,2,4)  
13 Trouble from the year dot (5)  
15 Main letters used in 20 (3)  
17 Lads after a job in the mail service (4-4)  
18 Children needing three lots of singlets? (8)  
19 Speech describing Christian habit (7)  
21 Enter amended total (6)  
22 Nuts to gather not far from Croydon (6)

### Yesterday's Solution

BANDSAP TIERROT  
LIA O O Y A E  
OILDRUM SHELVES  
C O A E B I S  
KITCHENER PHONE  
E I I I L R  
DECRY SHANGHAI  
O E I Y N R  
PUNLUBER TRUMP  
IT Y Y N R  
CREEL OFFENSIVE  
K N L U A E F P  
LASTING ISADORA  
E I N H R R C  
DELIGHT YASHMAK

**ACROSS:** 1 Struts, 7 Arrow, 8 Addition, 9 Nod, 10 Keep, 11 Accede, 13 Insert, 14 Endive, 17 Placid, 18 Firm, 20 Ass, 22 Observant, 23 Colon, 24 Complete. **DOWN:** 1 Stack, 2 Redress, 3 Inch, 4 Evince, 5 Brine, 6 Twaddle, 7 Antenna, 12 Treason, 13 Infancy, 15 Imitate, 16 Fiasco, 17 Psalm, 19 Mitre, 21 Trap.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**  
7 Bower  
8 School teacher  
10 One lacking gratitude  
11 Light wood  
12 Latin poet  
13 Theatre platform  
17 Steeple  
18 Children's computer language  
22 Retinue  
23 Agitation  
24 Slice of bacon  
25 Famous English painter

**DOWN**  
1 American reindeer  
2 Lady's maid  
3 Nun-urban  
4 Refuse  
5 Shoulder wrap  
6 Native of north Yugoslavia  
9 Manual skill  
14 Bolting tool  
15 Khine city  
16 Domestic birds  
19 Tale  
20 Out of date  
21 Arrogant

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Dan Region \*781111 Petah Tikva \*923111  
Eilat 7233 Hadera \*451333  
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# MARKET PLACE

## Red light district

Some people will do anything for the sake of a fast buck, including taking on a high risk. So long as they don't come crying when things go wrong, it's much their own business. In Israel, however, there is no chance of anybody losing money quietly. People only make it quietly, the shouting begins when the chickens come home to roost.

No we are not referring to any of the money-grubbing groups currently engaged in rapping the Treasury and destroying the budget. That's too obvious and commonplace to be worth taking up again. We're talking about something that hasn't happened for four whole years, namely a genuine, dishonest-to-goodness, share market mania.

The share market has been rising non-stop so far in 1987, and for the latter part of 1986 as well. The single basic reason for this phenomenon is the simplest one, the one that is always true of rising markets: There are more buyers than sellers. There are, in fact, far more buyers than sellers, and every time the sellers would seem to be in a position to get the upper-hand, if only temporarily, another wave of buyers is on hand to forestall them. The result: the market simply doesn't go down.

There is nothing wrong with bull markets, of course. The best thing about them is that people make money, usually lots of money. The bad thing about them is that as the word spreads that easy profits are at hand, the herd that is the general public starts thundering in, to their own ultimate detriment. That is because the worst thing about bull markets is that the bigger they come, the harder they fall.

When they fall, it makes front-page news. You won't see stories on today's front pages about the market having gone up dramatically, or its almost incredible strength in shrugging off a series of negative news items in the last three days that would have knocked out any normal market. But when the market cracks — and crack it will, whether it happens today, next week, next month or whenever — then there will be a great hue and cry, and all the know-alls will pontificate about the casino society, and the nation's moral fibre and all the rest of that palava.

Then, too, the tabloids will be full of sob stories of pathetic twits who, innocent of any knowledge of what they were getting involved in, put most, or even all of their savings in speculative shares, and picked the top of the market as their entry point. When they get wiped out, they make the juiciest human-interest stories. Impossible as it may be to know when that point will be reached, what is clear is that the red lights have gone on all over the Tel Aviv financial district. But the lights mean different things to different people. To some, they are a guide to where they can have a good time. To others they show the way to manipulating simplistic for their own financial gain — and there are plenty of these money-pumps in the loosely regulated jungle of the Israeli capital market. To others still, the red lights are a warning of danger, a place to stay away from.

The lights are shining more brightly now, because the last few days have created a new reality in the markets. The fundamentals are being completely ignored, and only the crudest technical analysis is of any help in understanding what is going on. Thus the open crumbling of the government, the ransacking of the budget and, most relevant of all for the financial markets, the sudden and massive hike in the cost of money, have had no effect whatsoever on the share market. Price/earnings ratios are way out of line, and getting more so all the time, but no one cares.

What counts is that the market is dreadfully narrow, that no large new issues are taking place and that the main shareholders in most companies are not yet selling large chunks of their holding. Against this is the flood of money from the public, directed mainly through share-oriented mutual funds, and this is driving prices ever higher.

For the moment it's a ball, but in the background lurks a basic truth of all markets, that investors will ignore at their peril: Bulls make money, and bears make money, but pigs get slaughtered.

**BUDGET.** — The Vatican, troubled by a budget deficit that was expected to reach \$56 million last year, has ordered a spending freeze for 1987, Vatican officials said yesterday.

## Consumption up 6%

## Electricity use in '86 exceeded forecasts

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

**Jerusalem Post Reporter**  
**HAIFA.** — Power consumption soared this fiscal year, and the Israel Electric Corp. is worried about meeting short-term future demand, general manager Yitzhak Hoffi told the press here yesterday. The electric corporation has already decided to tear down their old units alive for 40 years, rather than their natural 30-year life span to meet the higher levels of demand.

With two months still to go, consumption this year is up an average of 6 percent, with a record peak load of 2,950 megawatts established last month, three years ahead of the utility's forecasts, and 400 megawatts above the previous record set a year earlier.

"If Mekorot had not suspended pumping from the Kinneret in the autumn because there was no water to pump, the demand would have been even greater and we may be in trouble in about 18 months," Hoffi said.

The new station in Ashkelon is due to go on line in July 1989, when the first of the twin 550-megawatt generating units come on stream. The second will follow a year later.

Hoffi, and his chief engineer, Moshe Katz, attributed the very steep rise both to commercial and domestic demand.

Demand for power-guzzling household appliances appears to come in waves, they noted. Following colour television sets, dishwashers and electric dryers are in fashion.

In addition the spread of air-conditioning, particularly fully air-conditioned shopping centres, is putting a strain on the power system.

Hoffi said the nuclear energy option "is no longer viable for us in this

century." It takes 12 years from the first plans to complete a facility, and "Israel has no offer of a nuclear reactor in hand, since the French offer was withdrawn," he noted.

Therefore the next station, slated for completion in the late 1990s will, like all those currently in use, be coal-fired, with the option of switching to oil fuel. The plant will have twin 550-megawatt generation units.

A decision on the station's site is about to be discussed. The electric corporation's board is to take the first step later this month, when it decides on which recommendation to submit to the National Planning Council for approval.

Hoffi said the board had considered locating the station deep inland but had estimated it would cost from \$300 million to \$400m. extra in construction and operating costs, which he believed would be prohibitive.

The board's own choice had been narrowed to the existing sites in Hadera, where the station's estimated cost would run to \$760m., or in Haifa, where the cost would be \$840m.

But the Hadera option meant concentrating nearly half the country's total generating capacity on a single site, a great security risk in view of the increasing precision of long-range missiles. The Haifa site would spread the capacity fairly equally between four locations, in Haifa, Hadera, Ashdod and Ashkelon.

Haifa would also benefit from several hundred jobs to alleviate its unemployment. Hoffi said the 300-metre-high smoke stacks, which would be 50 metres higher than in Hadera, "should meet environmental quality requirements," with the less than 1 per cent sulphur content of the coal.

## KOCHAV YAIR

(Continued from Page One)  
down two months ago, after serving since September 1985. Eitan said the secretariat had been elected for only one year and that was the reason for the resignation.

Reacting to the accusations of faulty management, Eitan said Kochav Yair was indeed a success story. He added that all the settlement balance sheets had been submitted in accordance with existing regulations, under the supervision of external auditors and accountants.

Eitan maintained that the accusations of faulty management were refuted by the fact that hundreds of

families have applied to be accepted to the project. He emphasized that Kochav Yair is being built with almost no public funding.

Eitan said his monthly salary was intended to cover expenses incurred and time spent on advancing the project. In fact, it covered only half of his monthly car expenses, he said.

He admitted that there were a few building shortcomings, as on any other such project, and added that the construction companies had provided settlers with bank guarantees. The companies were attending to those deficiencies, he said.

## BUDGET

(Continued from Page One)

the source of further friction.

The Labour party insists that aid to the West Bank settlements be granted "in accordance with the coalition agreement," which could be interpreted to mean that each sum must be approved by the government. MK Haim Ramon, the party's senior member on the Finance Committee, said that his faction would not oppose "money for purchasing ambulances," but would not approve more money for new settlements.

The Likud leaders not only oppose such a view, but are also insisting that the package for the UKM be approved together with allocations for the settlements in the territories. The Likud heads believe that by tabling a request for aid for West Bank settlers they will be testing the Alignment. They decided that the sums involved must be "large enough."

## DRORI

(Continued from Page One)

In his presentation, Drori said that the number of reservists called up next year will, once again, be somewhat lower than in previous years. Fewer reservists will be called for routine and day-to-day security operations.

The army intends, however, to place special emphasis on training its reserve combat forces, especially the ground units. Pilots will fly more and Navy men will train more.

Such training had been cut in the past years since it was felt that soldiers had gained valuable battlefield experience during the Lebanon war. But now the army feels training hours have dropped "below the red line," Drori said.

The army also plans to stop laying off career officers and non-coms. Over 7,500 such career men and civilians have already been laid off.

As opposed to last year's continued eating up of stockpiles, the IDF this year will step up its expenditure on procurement and on the renovation and improvement of major combat systems.

## Canadian trade in black

By KEN SCHACHTER

**TEL AVIV.** — Israel is almost certain to show a trade surplus with Canada for 1986 on the strength of its diamond exports, a Canadian official said yesterday.

Preliminary figures that run through November 1986 show Israel's exports to Canada came to \$96 million, while imports were \$86.7m. Exports of cut diamonds totalled \$28.4m., more than a quarter of Israel's exports.

Although the figures in no way approach the \$150 billion in two-way trade between the U.S. and Canada, John Lang, the commercial counselor at the Canadian Embassy here, noted that Israel had become the third-largest market for Canadian products in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

"Israel used to be the sixth [largest market]," he said. "Israel has assumed greater importance."

Canada, however, is balking at Israel's "buy back" policy under which countries whose goods are purchased by the Israeli government would be obliged to reciprocate.

The Industrial Cooperation Authority, a branch of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, contends Israel's import of \$10.4m. in Cana-

dian barley last year obliges Canada to import Israeli merchandise of equal value.

Lang said such reciprocal arrangements could set a dangerous precedent.

"If Canada agreed to compensate Israel for barley," he said, "the Soviet ambassador would be at our doorstep the next day."

Canada has shipped vast amounts of wheat to the shortage-prone Soviet Union over the years.

In another sphere, Lang said Canada is trying to promote high technology joint ventures among Israeli and Canadian companies. Though there are talks among several potential partners, no deals have been completed, he said.

Once preliminary contacts are established, the companies would approach their respective governments for funding, the Israeli company through the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Canadian company through the National Research Council.

After funding is secured, production could be divided among both countries.

The object of the plan is to transfer technologies between the two countries.

## Israel's diamond policy

## Battling India's boycott

By SIMON LOUISON

**TEL AVIV.** — India's blocking of Israel's participation in the world table-tennis championships has strengthened Israel's resolve to oppose Indian entry into the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB).

Israeli Diamond Exchange president Moshe Schnitzer told *The Jerusalem Post* that the Israeli position is that as long as its businessmen cannot travel freely in India, Israel will block Indian involvement in entry to the WFDB.

India has refused to issue visas to the Israeli table tennis team to play in the world championships next week. For a brief period this week, it appeared the Indians may have relented. But Tuesday, the Israelis learned New Delhi had no intention of permitting their entry.

"The ping-pong affair shows the policy of the Indian government is still not to let Israel in," said Schnitzer.

While Israel has led opposition to Indian entry, the last World Diamond Congress vote was unanimous. The Indian bourse itself concedes that it violates the federation's by-laws regarding free travel, Schnitzer said.

He said the Israeli industry does not oppose its Indian counterpart, as evidenced by its encouragement of

Indian traders here, but cannot resolve the trade issue before the diplomatic dispute.

Schnitzer noted that if the Indian government prevents Israeli diamondsmen from appearing before the WFDB internal court during disputes, then it restricts Israel's businessmen.

The Indian industry, however, charges that an envious Israel is attempting to hamper it.

"Israel's political ruse does not hold water.... The country is clearly jealous of India because it has succeeded Israel as the world leader in diamond processing and exports," the editor of the Indian magazine *Diamond World* Vidya Vinod Kala recently wrote.

"Indian observers maintain that diplomatic recognition is beyond the trade's jurisdiction," he said. "The Israeli diamond leader's [Schnitzer's] negative attitude contradicts the practice followed the world over in such matters. In modern diplomacy, trade and cultural relations are used to pave the way for political solutions. But surprisingly, the Israeli diamond sector is putting the cart before the horse."

Schnitzer responded to the charges by stating that when Israeli traders are received as warmly in India as Indian ones are here, Israel will lift its WFDB block.

## COMPANY RESULTS

Ben Yakar, Gec Engineering Ltd.

Building contractors	1986	1985
Half	NIS 6m.	4,67m.
Revenue	(306,000)	(203,000)
Net income		

Marav Mortgage & Savings Bank

Home lending	1986	1985
Year		
to Dec. 31	NIS 79,55m.	209,68m.
Revenue	95,000	
Net income		

Independence Mortgage Bank

Home lending	1986	1985
Year		
to Dec. 12	NIS 15,68m.	33,12m.
Revenue	439,000	440,000
Net income		

Hanauel Industries Ltd.

Building materials	1986	1985
Half		
to Sept. 30	NIS 822,000	4,04m.
Revenue	102,000	
Net income		

## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES

PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.58% per month

Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	Last Updated	Tapas	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
LEUMI	11.2	8-18.25%	9-26.25%	12-28.25%
HAPOALIM	27.1	8-17.00%	9-17.50%	12-20.50%
DISCOUNT	17.12	7-16.00%	8-16.20%	14-18.50%
MIZRAHI	1.12	8-17%	6-17.50%	6-19.50%
FIRST INT'L	13.1	10-16%	11-17.7%	13-20.04%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.

(Tapas: demand deposit paying daily interest.

Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

## PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES

(February 11)

	MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	5,500	5,500	5,525	
STG (£10,000 pounds)	9,375	9,125	9,125	
DMK (100,000 marks)	3,000	3,125	3,125	
SFR (50,000 francs)	2,625	2,625	2,750	
YEN (3,000,000 yen)				

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

## SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (February 11)

	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rates
Currency basket	1.6630	1.6840	1.6719
U.S.A. Dollar	1.8010	1.8210	1.57
Deutschmark	1.0825	0.8536	0.87
Pound Sterling	1.2651	0.2684	0.26
Japanese Yen	1.0450	1.0581	1.02
Dutch Florin	0.7823	0.7921	0.77
Swiss Franc	1.0454	1.0584	1.03
French Franc	1.2457	0.2458	0.24
Swedish Krona	0.2281	0.2320	0.22
Norwegian Krone	0.2337	0.2366	0.23
Danish Krone	0.3533	0.3577	0.35
Canadian Dollar	1.1979	1.2129	1.17
Australian Dollar	1.0703	1.0836	1.00
S. African Rand	0.7701	0.7797	0.50
Belgian Franc	0.4213	0.4266	0.41
Austrian Shilling	1.2552	1.2709	1.23
Italian Lira	1.2411	1.2566	1.21
Jordanian Dinar	1	—	0.78
Egyptian Pound	1	—	0.83
ECU	1.1815	1.8423	1.8291

SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI

## EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MARKETS

(February 11)

PRECIOUS METALS

GOLD: LONDON A.M. FIX 402.90 P.M. FIX 403.00

SILVER: LONDON FIX 554.25

PLATINUM: LONDON P.M. 523.75

PALLADIUM: LONDON P.M. 123.00

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)

Forward Rates

(February 11)

	SPOT	2 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
DEUTSCHMARK	1.5236/50	747/1	106/103	210/205
POUND STERLING	1.5240/50	114/112	172/169	328/324
SWISS FRANC	1.5320/35	78/73	112/106	218/208
JAPANESE YEN	153.45/55	52/50	72/70	137/132
FRENCH FRANC	6.5380/90	240/280	370/440	760/810
ITALIAN LIRA	125.25/30	820/870	120/1270	2400/2475
DUTCH GULDEN	2.0450/70	41/37	63/59	125/118
BELGIAN FRANC	37.540/55	8.5/10.5	12/15	22/27
DANISH KRONA	6.8435/50	450/500	675/725	1350/1450
S.AFRICAN RAND	0.4790/90	15/10	22/17	80/70
EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT	1.1384/68	19/15	27/23	53/45
FINNISH MARK	4.5400/05	525/565	775/825	1600/1700
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6875/80	86/83	123/118	213/207
NORWEGIAN KRONA	6.9920/50	400/370	1450/1400	2910/2940

Formula for determining forward rates:

high/low (eg. 220/210) — deduct from spot price.

low/high (eg. 210/220) — add to spot price.

## NEW YORK FINANCIAL MARKETS

U.S. MONEY RATES

Prime 7.50%; Broker 7.25-7.50%; NY Euros 3 months

6%—7%e; Fed Funds late 6%e

## NEW YORK FOREIGN EXCHANGE

PREVIOUS CLOSE

OPENING

LATEST

Comment

The dollar traded steadily in the middle of yesterday's range. Traders took profits earlier when the currency failed to benefit from the Fed's failure to add reserves with Fed funds at a high level. But more speculation about an upcoming G-5 meeting and reports the U.S. may be pressing for reference ranges tempered selling pressure.

## ISRAELI STOCKS

TRADED IN NEW YORK:

NYSE and ASE

	Last	Prev. Close	High	Low	Vol ('00s)
Alliance	—	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4	308
Am. Int. Pap.	27	25	28 1/4	26 1/4	2
Am. Int. Tel.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	2
Am. Int. Tel.	7	7	7	7	21
Am. Int. Tel.	2	2	2	2	10
Am. Int. Tel.	13 1/2	13 1/2	14	13 1/4	221

Over the counter

TRANS	915.09	+ 7.27	BRITISH AI	16
UTILS	221.50	+ 0.29	COMDATA NE	13
65 STKS	834.50	+ 5.62	FANNIE MAE	44
NYSE COMP	158.53	+ 1.35	ADV MICRO	22
NYSE WOLF	186.90	+ 1.88	NAT SEMI	15



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## Setting the House in order

PEOPLE viewing television news in this country — when such news is allowed by television technicians to be aired — are regularly appalled by pictures of sparsely attended sessions of the Knesset plenum.

Theirs is the wrong approach to a grave issue. Plenum attendance is not the proper yardstick with which to measure Knesset members' input. Listening to boring and predictable orations from the rostrum is apt to be far less useful than doing work in committee, or in the library, or with constituents.

The real trouble with the Knesset is that all too many of its members are occupied too much of the time with moonlighting, and only do as much parliamentary work as is needed to keep their names in the headlines. MKs' indolence as MKs, and their outside economic interests, are bound to affect their parliamentary performance, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The Knesset has been wrestling with this problem almost from birth. As early as 1949 it passed a bill prohibiting MKs from drawing salaries from any source whatever in addition to their Knesset pay. But the ban was not extended to any other source of outside income, and no machinery was provided for its enforcement. Lawyers and economic consultants, for example, remained free to engage in their professions on a private basis, regardless of the conflict of interests this might easily involve.

The latter were even allowed to represent private clients before the very same government agencies over which, as Knesset members, they had legal clout.

Efforts over the years to remove the anomaly came to nothing — until the day before yesterday, when the House Committee, by a vote of 12 — contributed mainly by the smaller parties — to 7, resolved, subject to plenum approval, to end all moonlighting starting with the next Knesset. Only writing and lecturing for a fee is not banned. In addition, Knesset members are to be barred from representing clients before official bodies.

The precise manner of implementing the resolution is yet to be determined by a non-parliamentary public committee. Some ambiguities are still to be cleared up. The proposed new rules may in some respects be overly restrictive, although they are by and large even less stringent than those devised by the Asher Committee for cabinet ministers. The rules will be more helpful in reducing the impact of economic interests on deputies' legislative judgment than in persuading them to consecrate themselves single-mindedly to the work of the Knesset.

Nevertheless, the overall thrust of the House Committee resolution is perfectly sound, and it is very doubtful whether the plenum would wish to override it.

Opponents of the resolution argued in committee that it would discourage high-calibre professionals from running for parliament. The argument is at least partly contradicted by the high-calibre professionals who are an adornment to the present Knesset precisely because they devote themselves exclusively to its business. But even if there is a price to be paid, paid it must be if the Knesset is not to descend to the level of some legislatures around the world that are mainly political levers for their members' self-aggrandizement and self-enrichment.

The emoluments of Knesset members, though modest by western standards, are not so low that they make the bread line the only alternative to moonlighting.

One provision in the House Committee's resolution is to come into effect immediately. It requires MKs to fully report all their economic interests, and their and their families' sources of income. Hardly an Israeli invention, this provision is so obvious a necessity that it is only strange it has taken over 38 years to get it on the books.

## SHAMIR

(Continued from Page One)  
or lead to the break up of the national unity government.

Substantively, Peres said, he opposed negotiations within the framework of an international forum. What he did favour were direct negotiations that might be started by an international forum. The distinction was important.

Peres added that in 1977 an almost entirely Likud government decided in favour of an international meeting as a starting point. It was a decision that had never been revoked, and could never be revoked by anyone, and it remained the Israeli stance as he, Peres understood it.

"For this I have a mandate, and it is in this direction that I shall direct matters," the foreign minister said. Meanwhile, Peres continued, his understanding of Jordan's position was that King Hussein was ready for direct negotiations, not on a pan-Arab basis, but on a geographical basis, comprising Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians.

That readiness, Peres said, was not being made conditional on any other negotiations with other countries, nor on negotiations within an international framework. But, Peres seemed to imply, such direct talks must be primed by an international forum. "This I support, this I favour."

Shamir said that the Alignment's harking back to the 1977 cabinet

resolution and the 1986 Knesset vote in support of an international conference was "nonsense." The 1977 vote was "ad hoc" and was superseded by the visit of Egypt's late president Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem. Subsequently, the concept of face-to-face negotiations replaced the international conference idea.

Moreover, in the 1986 Knesset vote in which the Likud MKs also favourably "noted" Peres' speech at the UN General Assembly — Peres spoke of "international accompaniment" or "an international forum" rather than a "conference." Shamir said that as opposed to Peres' remarks yesterday, he believed that Knesset decisions did not oblige and did not bind the government and are not tantamount to cabinet decisions.

Regarding the message received by Shamir earlier this week from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the prime minister said he believed that Peres' constant advocacy of the international conference was beginning to have effect in Washington. Shultz reportedly wrote that the conference idea was being proposed by Jordan's King Hussein and that Shamir and the administration could "consider" it next week in talks in Washington.

According to Shamir, the administration, including Shultz (except for some officials in the State Department's Near East Department) has long been and remains opposed to the international conference idea.

## STORM

(Continued from Page One)  
copying a partly-obscured letter.

Steinbauer also noted stylistic errors in the letter, which addressed the British prime minister in the upper left-hand corner as "Mrs. Margaret Thatcher" rather than "The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher."

Steinbauer also denied that there had been any discussion in the People's Party of convincing Waldheim to resign.

In another news conference, Socialist Party secretary-general Heinrich Keller said his party did not have a separate position on the letter. "There can only be the view of a decent person, that it is detestable to make politics with forged letters or any forged material."

At the same time, Keller spoke out bluntly against the way Graff had immediately voiced generalizations

about Jews and a supposed Jewish world conspiracy.

"It has not been proven that the Socialist Party was involved in producing such a document, as Mr. Graff implied, or that the World Jewish Congress had anything to do with it," Keller said.

Austrian newspapers labelled the letter a forgery, but drew widely varying conclusions from the affair. Die Press commentator Otto Schulmeister wrote: "One can understand the Austrian man in the street who sees a mafia behind all this."

He linked the letter with a campaign against Austria by the World Jewish Congress and Israel, and said that WJC head Edgar Bronfman "will not get his [Waldheim's] head on a silver platter."

But other commentators suggested that the letter was sent in order to discredit Jewish circles.

## Summer Time struggle

Yosef Goell

THERE HAVE been recent indications that although Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz is blessedly gone from the Ministry of Interior, his temporary(?) stand-in, Deputy Minister Ronni Milo, has every intention of playing fast and loose with the Summer Time issue.

When Milo took over as Prime Minister Shamir's caretaker in the ministry he immediately announced that he would approve Summer Time. A few weeks later, he added that he had meant to institute Summer Time only between the second half of April — after the Pessah Seder, and until mid-August.

The reason for this latter date, which in effect is still mid-summer, is that it is before the beginning of the Hebrew month of Elul, when hand-fuls of observant Sephardim start getting up early to say their *selihot* prayers. Moving the clock would inconvenience some of them in getting to work on time. It took less than a month for Ronni Milo to become converted to Shas...

Summer Time is not, or at least ought not to be, a religious issue. But if the rabbis have already raised the issue of convenience that is the issue that should be at the centre of the fight. Convenience and not the valid but more marginal issue of energy savings.

There is not the slightest shred of a reason for the vast majority of the secular public, and for three-quarters of the religious public, who according to surveys are in favour of Summer Time, to sacrifice their convenience for the sake of the convenience of the tiny number of people who go to synagogue to pray every morning before going to work in places of employment that start before eight. That tiny minority can manage in the summer the same way they manage in the winter months.

which after all, are marked by the same conditions that Summer Time tries to emulate.

WHAT IS needed now is for the public to organize a grass roots campaign for the unilateral institution of Summer Time on April 1 with the intention of continuing it until the beginning or end of October. If enough organizations and individuals organize now and declare that they will personally and collectively begin Summer Time on their own on April 1, regardless of what the politicians decide, the politicians will give in.

What is needed first is a massive public petition in support of beginning Summer Time on April 1 and retaining it for a full six to seven months. This should be followed up by organizations such as the Histadrut, its individual trade unions, its Na'amat women's organization, Kupat Holim, industries organized in Koor and the Manufacturers Association, parents committees in schools, the universities and others, announcing their support and their determination to institute Summer Time in their own operations. Hopefully, such an initiative, if it spreads widely enough, could also induce the Minister of Defence to announce that for very understandable military reasons — the convenience of the soldiers in the field — the armed forces, too, will go over to Summer Time on April 1.

Rabbi Peretz and his predecessor in the interior ministry, the National Religious Party's Dr. Yosef Burg, made use of numerous stratagems to avoid the institution of Summer Time. Applications to the High Court of Justice for the ministers to

show cause why they should not institute it, is what finally did the trick. But both Dr. Burg and Rabbi Peretz cut the Summer Time that was imposed on them by the court, to the bone.

The real reason for their and the rabbinate's opposition to Summer Time was their fear that the extension of daylight hours into the evenings would serve to encourage desecration of the Sabbath by places of entertainment opening on Saturday evenings while it was still light. But this is an argument that simply could not stand up in court.

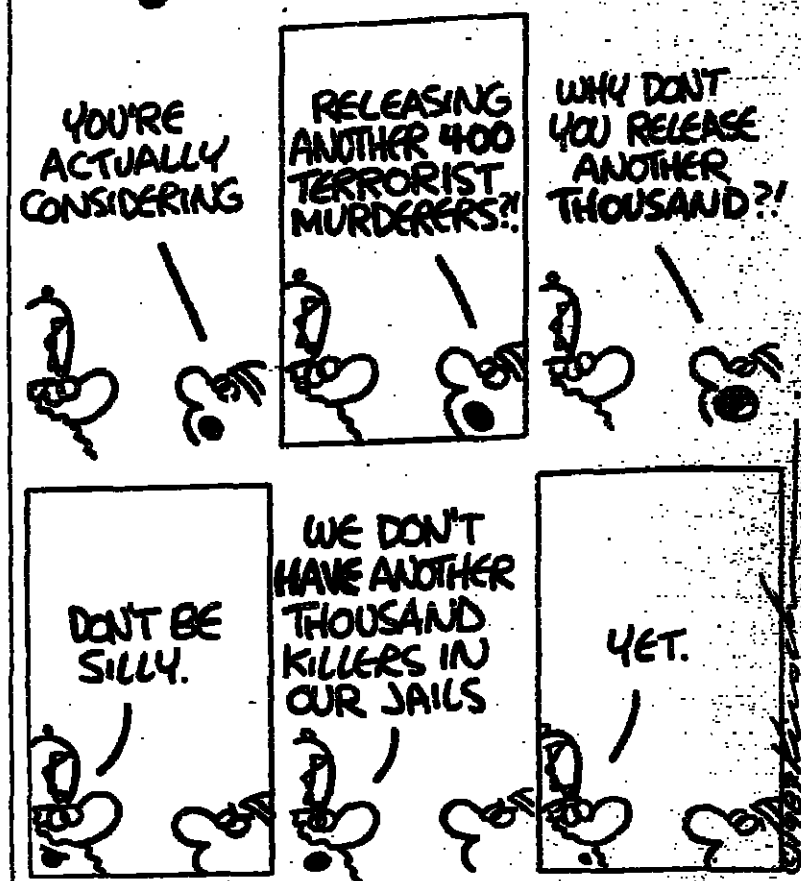
If our political leaders perform according to pattern they will expend all their energy and ingenuity on the task of wooing Rabbi Peretz back into the cabinet, even at the cost of the public's convenience, which is the last thing in the world they care about. This situation constitutes a classic case, not of confrontation between different parties, but of a confrontation between the vast majority of the public and its unresponsive political leadership.

The politicians clearly have no intention of standing up for the public's convenience. If the public does not stand up for its own interests, no one else will.

From a broader point of view of the relations between us the governed and our rulers, it is important that a precedent be established in which the public alive to its own interest, imposes its own will on a political leadership which has shown time and again that it couldn't care less. With elections in the offing within the next year and a half at most, now is the time to try to set such a precedent, and Summer Time is a tailor-made issue on which the public could win.

The writer is a member of the editorial staff of The Jerusalem Post.

## Dry Bones



## READERS' LETTERS

## RELIGIOUS OBSCURANTISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Three items reported recently in The Post and the media as a whole serve to underline the dangers to Judaism not from Reform and Conservative "deviations" from Orthodoxy, but from those who regard themselves as educators and leaders within the ranks of the Israeli rabbinic establishment and Haredi faithful. The first is the deaths of newborn babies by referral to rabbinic authority before performing a vitally necessary Caesarean section; the second, the necromantic rituals of Saint Abuhateira in Egypt and Saint Baba Sali in Netivot; and the third, the forced segregation of the sexes at funerals in Migdal Ha'emek, in deference to kabbalistic precedents and fears of Divine retribution for the sexual promiscuity aroused by the proximity of men and women.

These three items symptomize the trends dominant in rabbinic leadership today in Israel. Their historic predecessors made every effort to stem the tide of superstition rampant in an age when magic, black or white, and the worship of religious relics and saints were the norm. Judaism then stood out as the religion of reasonable persons, ruled by ethical primes where no one was God's assistant on earth, but where everyone had an equal divine potential within him giving him, however, no supernatural powers. Their motto was: "The soul of man is the lamp of God." It was Caro, the author of the Shulchan Aruch, who condemned the Kippur-eve kappara rite as idolatry, Rambam who ridiculed astrology and magic, denouncing any re-

sort to such practices and objecting in no uncertain terms to the treating of ritual objects as charms to ward off demons and illness.

The religious codes and commentators make a clear distinction between the customs of a superstitious folk Judaism and the pure ideal of a monotheistic faith based on knowledge of the sources and reason. In an age where progress in human knowledge and mass education has freed more and more people from the irrational fears that plagued our forebears and has led to greater equality of opportunity between the sexes, one would have imagined that those who have dedicated themselves to propagating a total Judaism would have committed themselves to a public, unrelenting struggle against the ignorance, superstition and fanaticism that has become so fashionable a hallmark of Orthodoxy. There are, thankfully and understandably, impeccable halachic sources for disqualifying customs and norms, however long-established, if they violate the common sense of an educated and thinking laity.

A literal, fundamentalist approach to Torah, a replacement of rational Halacha by irrational pseudo-Kabbala can only lead to what it led to in the past: alienation of educated people of both sexes from Jewish practice, false messianism and lower standards of Jewish learning, bringing the Torah into disrepute, causing what is known in plain Hebrew as *hillul hashem*.

ARYEH NEWMAN

Jerusalem.

## SEX EDUCATION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Ram Ishai's article, "Sex Education: a must" (February 4) made me very sad. Not because I disagreed with it — I am well aware that "teenagers indulge in sexual relations from a very young age, and often with more than one partner." What saddened me is that today we worry about teaching them about contraceptives instead of commitment, sex instead of love. Certainly they must be educated, but why not give pre-marital chastity also a chance?

Along with information on sex urges, why not teach that it is possible to control them, just as we do

other baser instincts. Why not teach them that promiscuity is a high price to pay for popularity, and that boys respect girls who respect themselves. Why not teach them that pregnancy within marriage is the greatest treasure, and youthful abortions can sometimes lead to inability to have children later. Along with contraception, why not explain that this does not offer protection against genital herpes, venereal disease, etc.

There are arguments for pre-marital chastity too — why not give them equal time?

DVOIRA WAYSMAN

Jerusalem.

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Israel Saharov



The LIBI Fund, 17 Rehov Dalet (Aranian), Hakirya, Tel Aviv 64734  
Tel. 03-266206, 03-205183

## BERRI

(Continued from Page One)

other Americans and a Frenchman, yesterday vowed "very cruel" revenge if the U.S. and Israel launch a rescue mission for the hostages.

The group claimed in a statement delivered to a Western news agency that the U.S. was planning an air and sea-landing in Beirut in a joint operation with Christian units of the Lebanese army.

Amal leader Berri, speaking in Damascus, also said yesterday that missing Anglican Church negotiator Terry Waite would be released "very soon." Berri rejected claims that Waite was a spy, and said he did not know who was holding the churchman.

Political sources in Beirut told Reuters that indirect talks for a possible deal between Israel and the terrorists could last weeks.

They said that any negotiations would have to be conducted through a third, and possibly a fourth, party and this procedure would in itself take some time to establish.

There has been no indication so far that such talks have started.

The sources said yesterday that the group holding the three Americans and the Indian had sent the Red Cross a list of some 400 Arab prisoners it wants Israel to free in the three-way deal.